

## **A BOUQUET JEWEL**

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### **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

5    Field of the Invention:

        This invention relates generally to floristry, and more specifically, to a bouquet jewel dimensioned to be mounted onto a post that is dimensioned to be inserted into a bouquet of flowers.

10   Description of Prior Art:

        Flowers may be used for any occasion. They are chosen for their sizes, their colors, and for their scents. Flowers are also chosen to stand singly, in an arrangement, or in a bouquet.

15       Jewels have also been used for many purposes. Not only may they be worn as jewelry, but they are also used in decorating. Jewels are especially attractive because of the alluring sparkle created by the jewels' refraction and reflection of light.

20       For weddings, a bride will typically choose a certain color scheme for the bridesmaids/groomsmen attire and for her wedding décor. Usually, the bridesmaids will each hold a floral bouquet that is also consistent with and accentuates the color of their dresses. The bridal bouquet

may also contain colored flowers, however, many brides insist upon a traditional white bouquet.

On occasion, some people add accessories to the bouquet, such as feathers or faux butterflies. These accessories, however, may be so large as to inadvertently detract from the natural beauty of the flowers themselves. Furthermore, the colors of the accessories may overwhelm or clash, rather than complement, the particular shades of the flowers.

Therefore, a need existed for a bouquet jewel dimensioned to be coupled to a post that is dimensioned to be inserted into a bouquet of flowers so as to compliment a flower combination.

## **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

It is an object of the present invention to provide a bouquet jewel dimensioned to be coupled to a post that is dimensioned to be inserted into a bouquet of flowers.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a bouquet jewel having a specific color, dimension, and quality that allows for ideal placement within a bouquet so as to provide optimal light and texture to the most popular flower combinations.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, a bouquet jewel is disclosed comprising, in combination a metal post having a display end, and at least  
5 one jewel defining a bore therethrough and dimensioned to be slidably coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation around the post proximate the display end.

In accordance with another embodiment of the present invention, a bouquet jewel is disclosed comprising, in  
10 combination a metal post having a display end, at least one setting coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the post, and at least one jewel dimensioned to be secured into the at least one setting and dimensioned to be coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation  
15 to the display end of the post.

According to a third embodiment of the present invention, a bouquet jewel is disclosed comprising, in combination a metal post having a display end, and at least one Swarovski Austrian crystal flower dimensioned to be  
20 coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the post proximate the display end.

In accordance with a fourth embodiment of the present invention, a bouquet jewel is disclosed comprising, in combination a metal post having a cotton fiber stem

insertion end and a display end, the cotton fiber stem  
insertion end dimensioned to be inserted into a cotton  
fiber stem housed within a flower stem, and at least one  
Swarovski Austrian crystal bead dimensioned to be coupled  
5 in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the post  
proximate the display end.

The foregoing and other objects, features, and  
advantages of the invention will be apparent from the  
following, more particular, description of the preferred  
10 embodiments of the invention, as illustrated in the  
accompanying drawings.

#### **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 is a perspective view of bouquet jewels shown  
15 in use with a floral bouquet.

Figure 2 is a perspective view of a bouquet jewel  
having a first Swarovski Austrian crystal bead and a second  
Swarovski Austrian crystal bead slidably coupled in a  
substantially perpendicular orientation around a metal  
20 post.

Figure 3A is a side view of a bouquet jewel having a  
heart cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone secured into a  
setting. An earring back is slidably coupled around a

metal post and connects the setting to the metal post in a substantially perpendicular orientation.

Figure 3B is a perspective view of a bouquet jewel having a setting dimensioned to secure an emerald cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone. An earring back is slidably coupled around a metal post and connects the setting to the metal post in a substantially perpendicular orientation. An emerald cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone is shown secured into the setting in phantom lines.

Figure 4A is a side view of a bouquet jewel having a heart cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone secured into a setting. An earring back is slidably coupled around a metal post and connects the setting to the metal post in a substantially perpendicular orientation.

Figure 4B is a top view of a heart cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone secured into a setting.

Figure 4C is a perspective view of a setting dimensioned to secure a heart cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone. An earring back is slidably coupled around a metal post and connects the setting to the metal post in a substantially perpendicular orientation.

Figure 5A is a side view of bouquet jewel having a heart cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone secured into a setting. A bottom portion of the setting is soldered to a

metal post so that the jewel is positioned in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the metal post.

Figure 5B is a perspective view of a setting dimensioned to secure an emerald cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone. A bottom portion of the setting is soldered to a metal post so that the jewel is positioned in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the metal post.

Figure 6A is a side view of a bouquet jewel having a heart cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone secured into a setting. A bottom portion of the setting is soldered to a metal post so that the jewel is positioned in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the metal post.

Figure 6B is a perspective view of a bouquet jewel having a heart cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone secured into a setting. A bottom portion of the setting is soldered to a metal post so that the jewel is positioned in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the metal post.

Figure 7A is a perspective view of a setting dimensioned to secure a round cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone. A bottom portion of the setting is soldered to a metal post so that the jewel is positioned in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the metal post.

Figure 7B is a side view of a bouquet jewel having a round cut Chinese cubic zirconia stone secured into a setting. A bottom portion of the setting is soldered to a metal post so that the jewel is positioned in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the metal post.

Figure 8A is a perspective view of a bouquet jewel having a Swarovski Austrian crystal flower. An earring back is slidably coupled around a metal post and connects the Swarovski Austrian crystal flower to the metal post in a substantially perpendicular orientation.

Figure 8B is a top view of a Swarovski Austrian crystal flower.

Figure 9 is a perspective view of a bouquet jewel having a first glass pearl bead and a second glass pearl bead slidably coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation around a metal post.

Figure 10 is a side view of a bouquet jewel having a first glass pearl bead and a second glass pearl bead slidably coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation around a metal post.

Figure 11 is a perspective view of a bouquet jewel shown in use with a stephanotis flower.

Figure 12 is an exploded view of a stephanotis flower, a cotton fiber stem and a bouquet jewel dimensioned to be inserted into a top portion of the cotton fiber stem.

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#### **DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

Flowers, especially when used in wedding décor, are chosen for their distinct colors. Jewels are desired because of their attractive sparkle. In combining the two, the inventor has developed a bouquet jewel. The inventor  
10 has discovered that the type of jewel used, its color, and its placement are crucial to creating the perfect floral bouquet. After extensive research, the inventor has determined which bouquet jewels complement the most popular flowers and wedding colors.

15 The inventor has discovered that the most beautiful jewels to use are Swarovski Austrian crystal beads and flowers, Chinese cubic zirconia stones, and glass pearl beads. However, it should be clearly understood that substantial benefit may be derived from the use of other  
20 gems and stones.

The inventor has also found that the bouquet jewels should have a post 20 (see Figure 4A) that is approximately 4-6 inches long and approximately 2-3mm in diameter. A bouquet insertion end 21 (see Figure 4A) of the post 20 is



inserted into the bouquet in order to give the illusion  
that the jewels are floating among the flowers 10 (see  
Figure 1). And although the preferred embodiment discloses  
a post 20 that is either a gold or silver base metal,  
5 depending upon the colors of the flowers 10 in the bouquet,  
it should be understood that substantial benefit may also  
be obtained from using other metals.

The inventor has also discovered that the most ideal  
position of the jewels is to be coupled in a substantially  
10 perpendicular orientation with respect to their posts 20.  
Such simple positioning prevents the bouquet jewels from  
overwhelming and detracting from the natural beauty of the  
flowers 10.

Referring to Figures 2, 9, and 10, a first embodiment  
15 of the present invention is disclosed. A first jewel  
defining a bore therethrough is shown to be slidably  
coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation around  
a display end 22 of the post 20. The first jewel is a 10mm  
diameter Swarovski Austrian crystal bead 31a (referred to  
20 generically as a Swarovski Austrian crystal bead) in Figure  
2 and is a 14mm diameter glass pearl bead 34a (referred to  
generically as a glass pearl bead) in Figures 9 and 10. A  
second jewel defining a bore therethrough is also shown to  
be slidably coupled in a substantially perpendicular

orientation around the display end 22 of the post 20. The second jewel is an 8mm diameter Swarovski Austrian crystal bead 31b (referred to generically as a Swarovski Austrian crystal bead) in Figure 2 and is a 12mm diameter glass pearl bead 34b (referred to generically as a glass pearl bead) in Figures 9 and 10.

A rondelle 40 is also shown slidably coupled around the post 20 so as to separate the first and second jewels. In Figure 2, the rondelle 40 is 6mm in diameter and in Figures 9 and 10, the rondelle 40 is 8mm in diameter. Finally, a bead cap 50 is slidably coupled around the post 20 and a 2mm crimp 60, for holding the jewels and the rondelle 40 in place, is shown slidably coupled to the display end 22 of the post 20 and proximate a bottom portion of the second jewel (see Figures 2, 9, and 10).

While, in the embodiments shown in Figures 2, 9 and 10, the first jewel is either a 10mm diameter Swarovski Austrian crystal bead 31a or a 14mm diameter glass pearl bead 34a and the second jewel is either a 8mm diameter Swarovski Austrian crystal bead 31b or a 12mm diameter glass pearl bead 34b and a rondelle 40, bead cap 50 and crimp 60 are used to separate and secure the first jewel and the second jewel to the post, it should be clearly understood that substantial benefit could be derived from

an alternative configuration of this embodiment: 1) in which jewels are used that deviate, even substantially, from the preferred diameters in either direction; 2) in which jewels other than Swarovski Austrian crystal beads and glass pearl beads are used; and/or 3) which does not use either a rondelle 40 , crimp 60 or bead cap 50 (or none of the three) as long as the jewels are capable of being securely coupled to the post 20.

A second embodiment of the present invention is shown in Figures 3A-7B. A setting 70 is coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the post 20 proximate the display end 22. Figures 5A-7B show a setting 70 that is soldered to the post 20. And Figures 3A-4C show an earring back 80 defining a bore therethrough that is slidably coupled around the post 20 proximate the display end 22 while its top portion is coupled to a bottom portion of the setting 70. The earring back 80 connects the setting 70 to the post 20. While, in this second embodiment shown in Figures 3A-7B, a setting 70 is either soldered or coupled with an earring back 80 to the post 20 it should be clearly understood that substantial benefit could be derived from an alternative configuration in which the setting 70 is coupled to the post 20 in some way other than by soldering or through an earring back, such as by

glue or some other coupling mechanism so long as the setting 70 is securely coupled to the post 20.

A jewel, preferably a Chinese cubic zirconia stone, is secured into the setting 70 and is dimensioned to be  
5 coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the display end 22 of the post 20. The Chinese cubic zirconia stone may be dimensioned as a 14mm heart cut 33a (see Figures 3A, 4A, 4B, 5A, 6A, and 6B), a 14mm round cut 33b (see Figure 7B), or a 12mm x 16mm emerald cut 33c (see  
10 Figure 1 and Figure 3B as shown in phantom lines in). It should also be understood that another dimension of the Chinese cubic zirconia or a stone other than the Chinese cubic zirconia may also be used without departing from the spirit and scope of this invention.

15 Figures 8A and 8B refer to a third embodiment of the present invention. A Swarovski Austrian crystal flower 32 having metal accents 32a is dimensioned to be coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation to the post 20 proximate the display end 22. Preferably, an earring back  
20 80 defining a bore therethrough is slidably coupled around the post 20 proximate the display end 22 while its top portion is coupled to a bottom portion of the Swarovski Austrian crystal flower 32. The earring back 80 connects the Swarovski Austrian crystal flower 32 to the post 20.

It should be clearly understood that substantial benefit could be derived from an alternative configuration of the embodiment shown in Figures 8A and 8B in which some other mechanism other than the earring back 80 is used to couple  
5 the Swarovski Austrian crystal flower 32 to the post 20, so long as the Swarovski Austrian crystal flower 32 is coupled securely to the post 20.

The inventor also created a bouquet jewel that is placed within the center of a flower 10 rather than  
10 floating within the bouquet. This fourth embodiment of the present invention has been favored by those who want a minimal amount of color added to their otherwise pure white bouquet. As shown in Figures 11 and 12, a cotton fiber stem 90 (shown in Figure 12) is soaked with water and is  
15 inserted into a stephanotis flower stem 11. A jewel, preferably a 5mm diameter Swarovski Austrian crystal bead 31c (referred to generically as a Swarovski Austrian crystal bead), is coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation to a post 20 having a circumference of  
20 approximately 4mm and having a length of approximately 10mm. The bouquet jewel is then inserted into a top portion of the cotton fiber stem 90 in order for the Swarovski Austrian crystal bead 31c to conceal a top portion of the cotton fiber stem 90. While, in this

embodiment, a 5mm diameter Swarovski Austrian crystal bead 31c is coupled to a post 20 having a circumference of approximately 4mm and having a length of approximately 10mm, it should be clearly understood that substantial benefit could be derived from an alternative configuration of this embodiment in which a jewel other than a Swarovski Austrian crystal bead is used and/or the dimensions of the jewel and post deviate, even substantially, from the preferred dimensions in either direction.

While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that the foregoing and other changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.